



# **CITY OF SANDY**

## **TRANSIT DEPARTMENT**

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*Gateway to Mt. Hood*

### **Testimony by City of Sandy Transit Manager Julie Stephens in Support of HB 2236:**

#### **Providing Equitable Treatment of a Public Transit Agency Operated by a Municipality**

For Public Hearing Scheduled on Feb. 25, 2015, Before the  
House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development

**To Chair McKeown, Vice-Chairs Davis and Gorsek, and Members of the Committee:**

The City of Sandy supports HB 2236, which addresses the equitable treatment of municipalities providing public transit with public transit providers formed as districts. Following a withdrawal from the TriMet District, the City of Sandy began providing public transit in 2000 in order to provide improved transit access within Sandy and to the Portland metropolitan area.

The City now provides transportation between Sandy, Gresham and Estacada and serves as a hub for transit service east to Mt. Hood connecting the greater Portland area and Portland International Airport with the iconic Timberline Lodge. Approximately 200,000 annual trips are provided in this area. Sandy's transit annual operating budget is just over \$1.1M.

To operate transit, the City collects a payroll tax of 6/10% (.006) from local businesses. The payroll tax collection rate in FY13 was \$28 per capita; to compare, TriMet's per capita rate of payroll tax in the same year was \$173. Any additional funds from state in-lieu funding would be welcome and well used.

I am a board member of the Board of Directors of the Oregon Transit Association (OTA), which represents transit agencies across the state, and supports the proposed bill.

On behalf of the City of Sandy, I respectfully ask for a Do-Pass vote on HB 2236.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

Julie Stephens

Transit Manager

City of Sandy